



BOROUGH OF REIGATE

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ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

FOR 1970

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BOROUGH OF REIGATE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
W. Moore, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

-----


Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
R. Frankham, M.A.P.H.I.

1970



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Godstone R.D., and Deputy  
Divisional County Medical Officer);

William Moore, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.R.O.C.G., D.T.M.H., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

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Deputy Public Analyst

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Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

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Pupil Public Health Inspectors

PAUL A. JEFFERY (until 9.8.70)  
STEPHEN PERHAM

Technical Assistants

JOHN AGENT  
LESLIE PARTEN

District Pests Officers

EDWARD E. ARNOULD  
PETER REEVES

Disinfecting Officer

Post Vacant

Clerks

MARY B. WICKENDEN (part-time)  
SUSAN A. GEALE  
DAPHNE MANN



BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report on the public health, sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1970.

The report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security, as indicated in Circular 1/71, and contains the information requested in the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

As can be seen from the figures, the Reigate statistics follow the national trend closely. There was a slight increase in the birth rate, and the death rate also showed an increase, which could be accounted for by the Registrar-General's estimate of the population.

There were no serious epidemiological problems during 1970, except for an increase in the notification of measles, due to the fact that fewer vaccinations were carried out.

Brief reference is made to the measures taken by the Public Health Department to ensure a satisfactory standard of purity and quality of water, milk and food supplies, sanitary inspection, duties under the Factories Acts, scavenging and cleansing, disinfection and disinfestation, supervision of caravan sites and other routine matters having a direct bearing on environmental hygiene and the prevention of disease and ill health.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support and consideration they have kindly extended to me throughout the year. I also wish to express my thanks to Mr. Frankham, the Chief Public Health Inspector, the Staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal and efficient support, and my colleagues in other Departments of the Corporation for their ready assistance and help.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM MOORE

Medical Officer of Health

23rd August, 1971.

Caberfeigh,  
24, Hatchlands Road,  
Redhill.

## SECTION I

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	10, 255 acres
Population, Census 1961	53, 751
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1970	57, 820
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1970 according to Rate Books	18, 329
Rateable Value (1st April, 1970)	£3, 263, 738
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£13, 200

-----

#### Population

The resident population of the Borough at mid-year 1970, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 57, 820, which shows a decrease of 10 on the corresponding estimated for 1969.

The overall density of population is 5.64 persons per acre and 3.15 per inhabited dwelling; the corresponding findings at the census enumeration in 1961 were 5.24 and 3.37 respectively.

#### Births

The 769 live births (386 of males and 383 of females) assigned to the Borough in 1970 represent a recorded birth rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. When adjusted by the prescribed formula for the purpose of comparison, the recorded rate is advanced to 13.8 which compares with the national rate of 16.0 for the same period.

The illegitimacy rate of 65 per 1,000 live births shows an increase over the number for 1969.

#### Stillbirths

The thirteen stillbirths in the year represent a stillbirth rate of 16.6 per 1,000 total (i.e. live and still) births. This compares with the corresponding rate of 13.0 for England and Wales.

#### Deaths

The 710 deaths (346 of males and 364 of females) assigned to the Borough in 1970 represent a crude rate of 12.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. When adjusted for comparison, this is reduced to 10.1, which compares with a corresponding rate of 11.7 for the country as a whole.

The number of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 weeks	3	6	9
4 weeks and under 1 year	3	-	3
1 - 4 years	1	2	3
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	1	2
25 - 34 years	1	3	4
35 - 44 years	3	5	8
45 - 54 years	30	14	44
55 - 64 years	55	25	80
65 - 74 years	106	61	167
75 and over	<u>143</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>390</u>
	<u>346</u>	<u>364</u>	<u>710</u>

Twelve infants died in their first year, of whom nine failed to survive for one week. All the infant deaths took place in hospital. The infant mortality rate for the year was 16.0 per 1,000 live births, which compares with an average rate of 18.0 for the preceding five years and 18.0 for England and Wales.

Five persons were fatally injured in road accidents, a slight decrease on the previous year, and there was one death from other accidental causes. This figure shows a marked decrease.

Deaths from other specified causes and their distribution by age and sex do not disclose any unusual features.

The new National Classification of Deaths is set out in brackets in Table III.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year are set out in Table I and comparative statistics for the years 1945 to 1970 are shown in Table II.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 - As amended by the National Assistance (Amendment Act), 1951.

This section confers the necessary powers to secure the compulsory removal to hospital or other suitable premises of persons suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to exercise the powers under this Section during 1970. However, the staff of the Public Health Department were required to investigate several cases of elderly people living alone in a state of neglect, and with the assistance of the domiciliary and supporting services available, the persons concerned were enabled to remain in their own homes, with an acceptable standard of care and amenity.



TABLE I

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICSLive Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	359	Females	360	Total	719
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	27	Females	23	Total	50

<u>Birth Rate</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.3
Do, 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.7
Do. for the five years 1965 to 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.9

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.5
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Still Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	9	Females	2	Total	11
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	1	Females	1	Total	2

<u>Rate per 1,000 total births</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.6
Do. 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.5

Total Live and Still Births

Males	396	Females	386	Total	782
-------	-----	---------	-----	-------	-----

Infant Mortality:-

## Deaths of infants under the age of one year:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	6	Females	5	Total	11
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	1	Total	1

## Infant Death Rate:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.0

## Deaths of infants under the age of 4 weeks:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	3	Females	5	Total	8
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	1	Total	1

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

Deaths (net) :-

Males	..	..	346	Females	..	..	364	Total	710
Do. 1969	..	..	304	Females	..	..	346	Total	650

<u>Death Rate:-</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.3
Do. 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.2
Do. for the five years 1965 to 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.8

<u>Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64.4
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

TABLE I I

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1945 - 1970

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
						Reigate	England
1945	36,670	569	15.5	497	13.5	33	46
1946	39,690	677	18.9	493	12.4	32	43
1947	40,480	744	19.6	534	13.2	20	41
1948	41,770	611	15.6	453	10.8	28	34
1949	42,150	592	14.8	518	12.3	37	32
1950	42,030	554	13.7	564	13.4	22	30
1951	42,220	530	13.2	551	13.0	20	29
1952	42,460	599	14.4	532	12.5	21	27
1953	44,890	654	15.2	637	14.2	30	26
1954	47,610	666	14.4	572	12.0	13	25
1955	48,180	637	13.6	585	12.1	17	25
1956	48,730	663	14.3	592	12.1	7	24
1957	49,330	681	13.8	564	11.6	13	23
1958	49,760	750	15.1	655	13.2	20	22
1959	50,580	706	13.9	586	11.5	14	22
1960	51,230	793	15.4	660	12.8	18	21
1961	54,260	790	14.5	642	11.8	12	21
1962	54,680	841	15.3	705	12.8	17	21
1963	54,890	823	14.9	748	13.6	18	21
1964	55,150	863	15.6	643	11.6	28	20
1965	55,490	810	14.5	617	11.1	16	19
1966	55,930	793	14.2	662	11.8	20	19
1967	56,340	794	14.1	655	11.6	19	18
1968	55,270	760	13.7	733	13.3	21	18
1969	57,830	751	13.0	650	11.2	13	18
1970	57,820	769	13.3	710	12.3	16	18

TABLE III

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate during 1970.

	M	F	Total
1. (B.5) Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	-	2
2. (B.11) Meningococcal Infection	-	1	1
3. (B.19(1)) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	1	-	1
4. (B.19(2)) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	-	2
5. (B.19(3)) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	9	15
6. (B.19(4)) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	10	10	20
7. (B.19(6)) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	36	4	40
8. (B.19(7)) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	9	9
9. (B.19(8)) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	3	3
10. (B.19(9)) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	6	-	6
11. (B.19(10)) Leukaemia	-	1	1
12. (B.19(11)) Other Malignant Neoplasms	22	20	42
13. (B.21) Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
14. (B.23) Anaemias	2	1	3
15. (B.46(3)) Mental Disorders	-	2	2
16. (B.46(4)) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	6	4	10
17. (B.26) Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	2	5
18. (B.27) Hypertensive Disease	5	3	8
19. (B.28) Ischaemic Heart Disease	96	87	183
20. (B.29) Other forms of Heart Disease	13	34	47
21. (B.30) Cerebrovascular Disease	33	82	115
22. (B.46(5)) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	21	13	34
23. (B.31) Influenza	5	6	11
24. (B.32) Pneumonia	28	31	59
25. (B.33(1)) Bronchitis and Emphysema	19	5	24
26. (B.33(2)) Asthma	2	-	2
27. (B.46(6)) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
28. (B.34) Peptic Ulcer	2	2	4
29. (B.35) Appendicitis	2	-	2
30. (B.36) Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
31. (B.37) Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
32. (B.46(7)) Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	3	5
33. (B.38) Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
34. (B.39) Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-	4
35. (B.46(8)) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	1	3
36. (B.46(10)) Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	2	2
37. (B.46(11)) Disease of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	9	9
38. (B.42) Congenital Anomalies	2	2	4
39. (B.43) Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	3	5
40. (B.44) Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	2	3
41. (B.45) Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	4	5
42. (BE.47) Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	2	5
43. (BE.48) All Other Accidents	1	-	1
44. (BE.49) Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	1	1
45. (BE.50) All Other External Causes	-	1	1
	346	364	710



## SECTION II

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water

Every dwelling house in the Borough has a continuous and direct supply of water from the public mains, with the exception of a bungalow in Gatton Park, which has a piped and filtered supply from a nearby spring. The water from this source is of doubtful bacterial quality and periodic visits are made to check on the current position; however the property has been empty during the year and consideration has again been given to getting a mains supply to the house before re-occupation.

Eighty nine caravans on approved sites in the Borough are supplied with mains water by means of standpipes which, in all cases, are within reasonable distance of the caravans. Ninety-three other caravans have a mains supply to each, two being connected directly to the mains and the others through two intermediate storage tanks.

There was no important extension of the public water supplies during the year, except that necessitated by new building development. The mains water supply, which is distributed in the whole area by the East Surrey Water Company, was adequate in quantity throughout the year and was augmented, when necessary, by distribution of water from the reserve boreholes at The Clears and Buckland. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers. Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted at least twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the Company. In addition samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about once a week under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company, thus avoiding duplication of sampling. Samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned. These reports invariably indicated that the chemical and bacterial purity of the water reached a very high standard. The following report is typical of those received during the year:-

"This water is of excellent organic purity, soft and free from contaminating metals. The bacteriological condition is excellent.

As judged by this examination the water is pure and wholesome and fit for drinking and general use."

With regard to fluoridation, no definite action has been taken on this preventive measure. The average content of the natural water supply in this area is 0.15 p. p. million.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools

There are two public swimming baths in the Borough. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are occupied with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. The baths are filled from the public mains and are emptied and re-filled if the chemical quality of the water tends to fall below the required standard; such action was not necessary in 1970. Samples of water from both baths were submitted by the Department for analysis at the height of the bathing season, and were reported to be of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

Samples of water from the six open air Swimming Baths at local schools are also submitted for analysis. Three pools were reported as having an abnormally high level of free chlorine. In all cases advice was given on measures to reduce and maintain this figure at an acceptable level. All baths are now equipped with automatic filtration and chlorination plants, and the Inspectors have the necessary apparatus for checking the efficiency of the plant in operation.

When sought, advice was given with regard to the maintenance of acceptable standards at swimming pools at private houses.

## Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Fifty dwellings in the Borough are served by forty-two septic tank filter bed systems of sewage disposal. One installation draining ten housing units was repaired and overhauled during the year, necessary owing to breakdown of the system resulting from lack of proper maintenance.

The Council has approved the scheme for incineration of refuse and sludge in the one works and discussions are taking place with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The outcome is awaited with interest and it is hoped that the new works will be built soon, as problems, especially with regard to smoke, fumes and smell from the sludge beds, all recur with monotonous regularity.

## Closet Accommodation - Pail or Chemical Closets

All dwellings in the Borough are on the water carriage system with the exception of six properties on the rural outskirts of the district, where the apparatus available is a pail or chemical closet, and disposal of sink waste liquids is to some form of cesspool or soakaway.

One property served by a cesspool was connected to the Council's main sewerage system during 1970, and one pail closet was abolished following the demolition of the unfit property.

## Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction, pollution and rodent infestation.

## Public Cleansing

I am indebted to the Cleansing Superintendent for the following information relating to arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse:-

"Staff recruitment for the Department improved towards the end of the year and no doubt this was largely due to increasing unemployment figures. Refuse collection frequency for the first time in many years became reasonably consistent. However certain unavoidable factors did cause temporary disruptions and there was a disturbing curtailment of the service during the late autumn caused by the refuse collectors industrial dispute. Regrettably residents do not readily accept the reasons for prolonged collection periods following Bank Holidays.

For some years now it has been Departmental policy to engage temporary labour, in the form of students, during the summer months to offset holiday commitments, an aggravating necessity when relating it to staff availability. However, assuming the labour situation is continued student engagements will accordingly be reduced.

Special collections provided for within the framework of the Civic Amenities Act have shown a pronounced increase, the total number of requests received being some 1,400, a 50% increase on the previous year. There has also been a marked increase of deposits at the Works entrance during evenings and week-ends, this form of disposal now having reached an estimated 1,000 tons per annum. Serious consideration may shortly have to be made for the betterment of this facility both for the Borough residents' convenience regarding depositing of their items and the Department's final disposing of this influx of refuse.

Car disposals at the Works during the year fortunately showed a marginal reduction but nevertheless the requests received for towing in by the Department's own transport remained at par. Owing to the breakdown of the heavy scrap baler there has been an accumulation of burnt out vehicles stock-piled.

Working conditions within the paper shed were improved in June, 1970 by the installation of an Automatic Paper Baler. Further mechanical handling efficiency has also been achieved by the acquisition of a Clamp Lift Truck, specifically for use in conjunction with the new baling machinery. Additional equipment commissioned also included a new Mechanical Shovel in August, 1970, the acquisition of two new salvage trailers and an order also placed for the delivery of a Screw Packing refuse collection vehicle.



In addition to the 1,000 tons estimated Civic Amenities refuse received, 15,850 recorded tons of refuse was disposed of during the year. With the re-introduction of 24 hours burning the necessity to practise controlled tipping of crude refuse eased at both local Council tips. I am optimistic that, in the absence of emergencies, (plant breakdowns being the predominant feature in this respect) this situation will continue.

Some limited improvements have been made to staff welfare facilities and efforts continue to further improve these conditions within the Refuse Disposal Works.

Further progress was made on the future means of refuse disposal and subsequently authorisation was obtained to proceed in favour of the 'Lurgi' combined refuse/sewage sludge incinerator. The advent of circular 2/70, issued by the Department of Environment dated November, 1970 and relating to Capital Programmes Expenditure, introduced further problems which had to be resolved during the crucial final stages of the negotiations."

#### Shops and Offices

In accordance with local practice, all plans submitted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor relating to shops are passed to the Chief Public Health Inspector to enable him to offer advice or suggestions, more particularly with regard to ventilation of shop fronts, lighting, sufficiency of sanitary accommodation, water supply and drainage.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, has made detailed provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in such premises since it came into operation in 1964. Inspections of registered premises continued throughout the year and involved a further survey of the Borough. The need for this periodic re-check is due to the constant change in occupation and business requirements. All newly notified premises receive a general inspection; also all accidents reported were investigated. Particulars of these are summarised in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

#### Camping and Caravan Sites

The Corporation Caravan Site at Three Arch Road, Redhill, has accommodation for a maximum of thirty-eight caravans and is mainly restricted to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. One plot is kept vacant and available for urgent cases. The Site has continued to serve its purpose satisfactorily in helping to meet the needs of local caravan dwellers. There were ten new lettings in 1970 and a total of forty-seven families were in occupation at some time during the year.

During 1970 the site was the subject of a review on standards generally, as a result of which a number of improvements were made, particularly in the case of the ablution building which was equipped with new heating, improved insulation and hot water supply.

There are also two privately owned caravan sites with accommodation for one hundred and forty-six caravans. At one of these sites there are specially prepared plots for about 91 caravans of the "Mobile Homes" class, each provided with mains water, electricity, internal water closet, bath and main drainage connection. It was necessary to draw the attention of the site owner to the need to renew fire fighting appliances, improve road surfaces and restrict the growing practice of adding large porches to caravans, thereby increasing the risk of the spread of fire between vans. The facilities at both sites conform with the Model Standards for caravan sites.

#### Atmospheric Pollution - Clean Air Act 1956

No contravention of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Period) Regulations were recorded in the Borough during the year. However, one complaint was received of this from a commuter who regularly used the A.23 main road and took exception to the Borough refuse incineration plant smoke emission. Problems do, of course, arise here from time to time but it is hoped that this nuisance will be resolved on completion of the new works. Meanwhile, control on this source of pollution is exercised and kept to a minimum.

One other case of fume emission was found to be caused by a domestic oil fired boiler. Representations to the oil company supplying the fuel resulted in the matter being righted and no further trouble has been experienced.

The air pollution recording and measurement station in the Borough, which was established in 1967 at the Department at "Caberfeigh", continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year. As reported previously, the station was set up following consultation with Warren Springs Laboratory for the combined measurement of air pollution, including sulphur dioxide, since when there has been a continuity of records sent to the Laboratory as part of the National Survey, together with daily recording of weather conditions, temperature, wind velocity, etc. In addition to the records sent to Warren Spring, quarterly reports are also sent by prior arrangement to the Consultant Chest Physician at the Redhill General Hospital. An extract of the recorded readings from the winter of 1969 and the summer period of 1970 appears on page 13.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs

No case of infestation by bed bugs were reported during the year. Infestations of this nature are now most rare.

#### Registered Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered common lodging houses in the Borough.

Redhill - Station No. 1

Concentrations of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide - Micrograms per Cubic Metre .

Weekly Averages

Winter Period			Summer Period		
1969	Smoke	Sulphur Dioxide	1970	Smoke	Sulphur Dioxide
Oct. 6	29	42	April 6	17	96
13	45	57	13	33	110
20	34	43	20	18	86
27	32	51	27	12	75
Nov. 3	26	59	May 4	16	71
10	52	62	11	14	69
17	36	57	18	18	79
24	34	73	25	12	63
Dec. 1	54	129	June 1	13	60
8	47	133	8	21	100
15	93	179	15	25	93
22	64	143	22	19	84
29	41	87	29	7	36
<u>1970</u>			July 6	11	30
Jan. 5	73	184	13	15	37
12	50	117	20	15	51
19	30	88	27	13	57
26	31	83	Aug. 3	11	58
Feb. 2	43	90	10	24	51
9	57	112	17	23	44
16	60	157	24	14	38
23	24	77	31	17	52
March 2	32	127	Sept. 7	24	91
9	50	133	14	21	64
16	36	119	21	23	59
23	31	79	28	26	64
30	23	103			



Factories Act 1961

In accordance with the requirements of Section 153(i) (a) of the Factories Act, 1961, I submit the following particulars of action taken during 1970 in relation to factory premises:-

(1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	15	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	203	84	-	-
(iii) Others	32	36	-	-
TOTALS	259	135	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspr.	Referred by H.M. Inspr.	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	8	-	-	-

(3) Outwork Sections 133 and 134

In compliance with the requirements of Section 133 (i) (c) notice was given by two local employers in respect of one hundred and eighty eight outworkers employed by them in the painting of small plastic articles.

Eight lists were received from other Authorities in relation to fourteen outworkers engaged in the making or altering of wearing apparel. Inspections were made, but no further action was required.



HOUSING

Statistical particulars relating to the demolition, closure and repair of unfit houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The particulars supplied under these headings in respect of the year 1970, are briefly summarised as follows:-

(a) (i) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, Section 42)	-
(ii) Families displaced from Clearance Areas	9 (26 persons)
(b) Individual unfit houses dealt with (Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 & 17)	
(i) Demolished .. .. .	5
(ii) Closed .. .. .	4
(iii) Families displaced .. .. .	15 (27 persons)
(c) Unfit houses made fit -	
(i) Informally - by owner .. .. .	91
(ii) After formal notice .. .. .	Nil
The following information is of interest:-	
(d) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	541
(e) Number of dwelling-houses - included in (d) above - inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	41
(f) Number of dwelling-houses represented as unfit and suitable for statutory action -	
(i) Under Section 42, Housing Act, 1957	-
(ii) Under Sections 16 & 17 Housing Act, 1957	-
(iii) Under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	4
(iv) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	-
(g) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1969	-
(ii) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1970	-
(iii) Number of cases relieved during 1970	-
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1970	-

No further clearance areas were dealt with during 1970; however five individual unfit houses were demolished. Closing Orders were made in respect of four houses forming a terrace, and attached to Licensed premises. Three other dwelling-houses, all the subject of previous Demolition Orders, which were deferred following the submission of schemes, were made fit and the Orders subsequently removed.

At the end of the year, a total of 443 unfit dwellings had been demolished or closed and 427 families, comprising 1,105 persons had been rehoused in accordance with the Council's programmes for the clearance of unfit houses.

The Council's Housing Manager has kindly supplied the following particulars with regard to rehousing:-

1.	<u>Number of new dwellings completed during the year</u>	
	Erected by Borough Council	78
	Erected by G. L. C.	41
	Erected by private enterprise	<u>138</u>
		<u>257</u>
2.	<u>Families rehoused from waiting list</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	19
	In permanent Council flats	101
	In old people's bungalows	3
	In miscellaneous property	2
	In old people's flatlets	<u>12</u>
		<u>137</u>
3.	<u>Families rehoused from clearance areas:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	7
	In permanent Council flats	21
	In miscellaneous property	<u>1</u>
		<u>29</u>
4.	<u>Families transferred from one type of dwelling to another:-</u>	72
5.	<u>Mutual exchanges within the Borough:-</u>	32
6.	<u>Tenants of other Local Authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	16

SECTION IV  
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Special Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1954, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be heat treated, i.e. pasteurised or sterilised, with the exception of tuberculin-tested milk.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1970 are summarised in Table IV, and show that the milk on sale locally reached the normal high standard of bacterial purity.

Five samples of untreated milk, sixty-seven of pasteurised milk and four of sterilised milk were submitted for the prescribed tests for keeping quality. All samples passed the appropriate tests satisfactorily. Should any samples prove unsatisfactory, liaison is maintained with the Local Authority concerned and also with the Ministry's Milk Production Officers. The raw milk samples were also examined for the presence of brucella abortus, but no positive results were recorded during 1970. All of the samples of pasteurised and sterilised milk satisfied prescribed tests to indicate that the heat treatment had been correctly applied.

TABLE IV  
RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbidity
	Satis- factory	Unsatisfactory	Test Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satisfactory
Untreated: 5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised: 67	67	-	-	67	-	-
Sterilised: 4	-	-	-	-	-	4



## Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963 and 1965

There are four designations of milk under these Regulations - "Untreated", "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Ultra Heat Treated". All milk sold for human consumption comes under one of these grades. Licences are issued for quinquennial periods, the current ones ending on 31st December, 1975 and they are also valid now elsewhere than in the area of the licensing authority. New dealers' licences were issued during 1970 to thirty six dealers covering forty two premises in the Borough for the next quinquennial period.

### Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 47 and 48 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, nor under the Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959 and the Dried Milk Regulations, 1965.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962. No contraventions of the Regulations were reported.

### The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

These regulations came into force in 1964, and prescribed for the pasteurisation of all liquid egg to be used in food for human consumption, other than egg "broken out" in the food manufacturer's premises and used within twenty-four hours. The method of pasteurisation and the test to be applied were laid down in the Regulations. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough, and no problem arose necessitating sampling during 1970.

### Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst Mr. J.A. Palgrave, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.Chem.A., and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Epsom.

There are now only two premises in the Borough at which ice-cream is manufactured for sale. In each case soft ice cream is made from a sterile cold mix in a freezing machine from which it is directly dispensed through a nozzle. Both premises are catering establishments and exempt from registration each proprietor having accepted a code of practice for the proper control, cleansing and sterilisation of the freezing machines and equipment.

A total of 125 confectioners, grocers, fruiterers, etc., are registered for the retail sale of ice-cream, obtained in all cases pre-packed from one of the large manufacturers. Hotels, catering establishments and cinemas are exempt from registration.

Twenty four samples of ice-cream were taken - twenty from caterers and four from local shops. All were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene blue reduction test. Twenty of these were placed in provisional Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling. The remaining four were reported as Grade III. Advice on handling and storage, etc. in these cases was followed up by further sampling, and subsequent reports from the laboratory were satisfactory.

Twelve other food samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination as follows:- Cream 6; Sausages 4; Ham 2. All were reported as being satisfactory, containing no pathogenic organisms.

## SECTION V

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Provision of Isolation. Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious diseases is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are usually admitted to the Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital at Betchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise they are sent to suitable hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region.

The disposal to various hospitals of the twenty-eight infectious cases requiring institutional care in 1970, was as follows:-

Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital	4 cases (Dysentery)
	3 " (Food Poisoning)
	1 " (Infective Hepatitis)
Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton	11 cases (Dysentery)
	2 " (Measles)
Redhill General Hospital	3 cases (Meningitis)
	1 " (Dysentery)
	1 " (Food poisoning)
	1 " (Encephalitis)
Hospital for Tropical Diseases	1 case (Malaria)

#### Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out generally in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Memorandum issued jointly in 1956 by the Ministry of Education and the then Ministry of Health.

Table V shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

#### Smallpox

No confirmed case of smallpox was reported in the Borough in 1970.

#### Scarlet Fever

Twenty-one cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. All the cases were clinically mild, but were investigated in the usual routine manner.

#### Whooping Cough

There were only four cases notified during the year, and the disease was very mild in character.

#### Measles

There was a very sharp and unexpected increase in the number of cases notified during the year, mainly occurring in the spring and summer months. Two cases were admitted to hospital due to poor home conditions,

TABLE V

Cases of Infectious Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) Notified  
During the Year, 1970.

	Cases notified in age periods													Totals	Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	1	3	10	1	1	1	-	-	-	21	-	-	
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	
Measles	14	44	67	62	71	209	10	3	-	-	-	-	480	2	-	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	13	7	2	2	1	-	-	25	16	-	
Meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	3	1	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	-	6	4	-	
Infective Jaundice	-	1	-	-	-	10	4	3	6	2	1	-	27	1	-	
Encephalitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	
Totals:	15	47	68	64	77	242	26	9	12	6	2	-	568	28	1	
Totals 1969	2	5	4	6	9	31	9	4	9	3	2	3	87	13	1	



### Dysentery

Twenty-five cases of dysentery were officially notified, showing a slight increase over the previous year. Almost all of these cases occurred in a local children's home and sixteen were admitted to hospital to prevent the spread of infection.

In addition to the cases officially notified it was learned that a number of school children had symptoms of the disease and a full scale routine investigation was made; some 1,100 specimens were taken and a number were found to be positive. These children were excluded from school until negative results had been obtained.

### Meningitis

There were three notified cases of meningitis during 1970. All were admitted to hospital; two patients made satisfactory recoveries but the third, an elderly lady, subsequently died.

### Food Poisoning

There were six notified cases of food poisoning, four of which were admitted to hospital. Full investigations were carried out, including bacterial examination of specimens.

### Infective Jaundice

Twenty-seven cases were reported during the year, only one of which had to be admitted to hospital. The Public Health Department carried out the usual routine investigations and advised on measures to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease among families.

### Encephalitis

One case of encephalitis was notified during the year. This occurred in a young child and followed a severe attack of mumps. The patient was admitted to hospital and made a good recovery.

### Malaria

One case of malaria was notified in 1970. The patient concerned had recently returned from Nigeria and was admitted to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases.

### Other Diseases

In addition to the foregoing notifiable diseases, ten cases of acute illness, which were thought to be infective in origin, were admitted to hospital. Five of these were intestinal infections from varying non-notifiable causes and five were viral diseases.

### Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table VI, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

During 1970 notification of five new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs were received, which represents a case rate of 0.08 per 1,000 of the population. This indicates a very satisfactory trend and stresses the importance of routine chest x-rays and B.C.G. vaccination of children.

Three new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year under review.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of seven previously known cases of respiratory tuberculosis which had been notified elsewhere and taken up residence in the Borough.

The names of seven cases were removed from the register of tuberculous patients; three on death and four on moving from the district.

At the end of the year there were 110 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 86 (59 males and 27 females) in which the lungs were affected and 24 (6 males and 18 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic. The total number of cases represents an increase of eight on the corresponding figure for 1969.

#### Mass Radiography

A total of only 810 persons were examined through the Mass Radiography Service during the year.

In my Report for 1969 I referred to the decision of the Department of Health & Social Security that the Mass Radiography Service would be discontinued in its previous form. Now only one unit operates in Surrey which is intended mainly for the use of general practitioners and it is regretted that the service is only available in a very limited form to members of the general public and to provide special facilities for various groups. It is felt that an important aspect of preventive medicine has been withdrawn by the curtailment of this simple screening process.

New cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1970, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years ..	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years ..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards..	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Totals:	4	1	-	3	2	-	-	-
Totals, 1969	4	1	-	1	1	-	1	-



## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### Vaccination against Smallpox

Vaccination against smallpox is now undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notification of vaccination performed during the year are as follows:-

	0 - 1 <u>year</u>	1 - 5 <u>years</u>	5 - 15 <u>years</u>	Total <u>      </u>
Primary Vaccination	9	463	44	516
Re-Vaccination	-	24	307	331

The foregoing figures represent a slight decrease, as compared with 1969, in the primary vaccination of infants which, in accordance with official advice, is now postponed until the second year. Re-vaccinations are for the most part attributable to children needing to be re-vaccinated for foreign travel.

Records of vaccination and re-vaccination are not now required in respect of persons over the age of fifteen years; these were formerly included in the totals and mostly related to persons who required valid International Certificates of Vaccination for foreign travel.

### Immunisation against Diptheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

Year of Birth:	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1963/66</u>	<u>Others under</u> <u>16 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
	19	463	74	4	25	4	589

In addition, reinforcing doses of diptheria prophylactic were given to 744 children, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

### Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme is aimed at the vaccination against whooping cough of infants under the age of six months, with reinforcing doses about one year later. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

Year of Birth:	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1963/66</u>	<u>Others under</u> <u>16 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
	16	459	69	4	11	-	559

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 103 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation.

### Vaccination against Tetanus

Vaccination against tetanus is available to children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected. Tetanus vaccine may be given separately but it is usually combined with the agents used for active immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. The normal practice has been to advise primary vaccination against tetanus about the age of six months, with reinforcing doses about one year later and again at school entry, with a final reinforcing dose at fifteen to nineteen years of age.

The number of persons vaccinated against tetanus in 1970, is as follows:-

0 - 4 years	560
5 - 16 years	<u>48</u>
	<u>608</u>
Reinforcing doses	902

### Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

There was no extension of the groups eligible for vaccination under the County Council's arrangements, which include persons up to the age of forty years and those who are considered to be exposed to special risks.

The numbers vaccinated against poliomyelitis by their own doctors or at County Council Clinics during the year are as follows:-

Primary Immunisation	641
Reinforcing Doses	905

### Measles Vaccination

During 1970 a full scale programme of vaccination against Measles continued and 580 children received immunisation.

### B. C. G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

The County Council's arrangements for routine B. C. G. vaccination against tuberculosis extend to thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council and independent schools, and also to some older pupils and students at County Colleges and other establishments for further education. Subject to the consent of their parents, persons in these groups are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B. C. G. vaccination. The object of the scheme is to protect young people before they leave school and so widen their range of contact with possible sources of infection.

Testing was conducted at eight schools in the Borough during the year, with the following results:-

Number Mantoux tested	494
Number of negative reactors	449
Percentage giving negative reaction	91.0%
Number vaccinated	449
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated	100%

The foregoing figures are roughly in accord with those for recent years, and again an increase is shown in the proportion of pupils giving a negative reaction to the Mantoux test. This is, no doubt, directly related to the declining incidence of infectious cases of tuberculosis in this area.

While the main purpose of the scheme is the ascertainment and vaccination of children who have not already had a primary infection, it is the usual practice to arrange, where possible, for x-ray examination of positive reactors to exclude the possibility of active infection. No unfavourable x-ray findings were reported during the year.

#### Protection against other diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as cholera, yellow fever, etc. is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic and is usually undertaken at specified centres.

#### Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees, the periodic statements of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Department of Health and Social Security in relation to insured persons and the Registrar's weekly return of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applicants for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

The information obtained from these various sources indicated that the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious illness in the Borough in 1970 caused little interference with employment or school attendance.

#### Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles that are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

#### Pediculosis

Selective school hygiene inspections revealed an increase in the number of pupils found to be affected with pediculosis although in most instances these were of a minor degree and confined to nits in the hair. Such a marked increase cannot be viewed with complacency, however, and extra attention is having to be paid to this branch of school hygiene.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR, 1970.

Public Health Department,  
"Caberfeigh",  
24, Hatchlands Road,  
Redhill, Surrey.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit to you my Annual Report of the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1970.

For the first time for seven years, it can be recorded that the year passed with the minimum of staff disturbances, the only item of note being the departure in August of Mr. P. Jeffery who had just passed out in the Department on completing his four years training as a fully qualified Public Health Officer. It is of interest to recall that Mr. Jeffery was the latest of eleven aspirants to the profession, who finally qualified fully after completing their training here during the years since 1945, five of these having come here as Junior Inspectors yet to acquire their "Meat and Other Foods Tickets". Only two other entrants decided to seek pastures new and moved elsewhere during the quarter of a century under review.

Repair and improvement of the older houses in the Borough continued steadily during the year, alongside work to achieve the ultimate demolition of the remaining worn out and unfit properties. The total of houses demolished or closed since the last war rose to 514, (with 491 families comprising 1,327 persons rehoused as a result). Houses improved and modernised rose by 65 to 950.

Much increased activity arose in the housing sphere as a result of the Qualification Certificates now available to landlords to negotiate a fair rent for houses in good repair and to a satisfactory standard of modern amenity. Ninety-six applications were received, 20 certificates were issued and 54 refused. Certificates of provisional approval were given in 19 cases. The inference may be drawn from these figures that owners had not done their "homework" properly before making application.

As detailed in past reports meat inspection continued to be 100%, and tuberculosis and cystercosis again remained at a minimal level; only four localised cases of the latter disease were detected.

Following several minor "takes" on rat baiting in the sewers in 1969, it was good to note a return to normality this year, with no rat infestation noted anywhere in the systems during this year's treatments.

Pest control continued to have the usual seasonal problems, with upwards of 400 wasps nests requiring treatment in July/August. Consequent on an earlier decision a twelve bore gun was added to the Department's armoury in May, with increased decimation of the pigeon population as a result. The nuisance from this source continues to be a problem in the town centres, nevertheless.

At the end of the period prospects looked brighter for the main drainage extension in the south west of the Borough, and another was put in the "pipe line" to link around 40 properties on Reigate Heath on the western fringe.

In conclusion, the help and advice of Dr. W. Moore is acknowledged, as is the willing support of colleagues. As usual, report to the Public Health Committee has been a consistent pleasure, and thanks must be recorded for your ready help and interest.

I remain,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At your service,

R. FRANKHAM.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

23rd August, 1971.

## Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 376 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and suspected food poisoning. Visits on the latter in connection with Sonne Dysentery accounted for many of these, a sharp increase on 1969.

The disinfection and disinfestation of material continued to be carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This was done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in the fumigation chamber. The service was also available to neighbouring authorities:- Caterham & Warlingham U.D.C., Dorking U.D.C., Dorking and Horley R.D.C., Epsom & Ewell Borough, Godstone R.D.C. and Leatherhead U.D.C.

Details are given below of the work carried out, including that at the Station and, unless otherwise indicated, relate to articles of bedding clothing, furnishings, etc:-

(1) Reigate Borough

Items	527
Rooms	24

(2) Leatherhead U.D.C.

Items	68
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(3) Dorking & Horley R.D.C.

Items	57
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The arrangement for the disinfection of library books by formalin vapour continued to be available.

The previous year's relatively high level of infestation by vermin - mainly fleas - increased again slightly during 1970. As before these were mainly caused by animal fleas (dogs and cats). In all, twenty two houses were dealt with. It was reassuring to note that no cases of bed-bugs were recorded.

Regular attention for cockroach disinfestation was necessary at an old people's home; insect pest control under contract arrangements was continued at a hospital and fire brigade premises; similar work was carried out at schools in the Borough, as and when necessary, on behalf of the County Education Authority. Infestations of flies or ants were dealt with at twenty dwelling houses.

No cases of elderly persons living alone in insanitary conditions were dealt with by the Department during 1970. This is no consolation, of course, as in most cases these arise suddenly, are usually urgent and without forewarning. It is incredible that such a crowded world still does not find an answer to this problem of loneliness, arising so often from the innate independence of the old.



## Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

This subject is governed by the following legislation:-

- (a) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.
- (b) Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.
- (c) Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 62 - 79 - Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards.
- (d) Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.
- (e) Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.
- (f) Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-52.
- (g) Meat Inspection Regulations 1963.
- (h) Meat Sterilisation Regulations, 1969.

Nine applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licences were granted at the beginning of the year. No infringements of the Act were noted during 1970.

The private slaughterhouse at Merstham provided for a "line-system" of slaughter and dressing; it continued to function satisfactorily during the period.

As before, 100% inspection of meat was achieved throughout the year; this having been the case since 1954 when the slaughterhouse was originally extended and re-opened. The throughput of animals slaughtered remained on a par with the previous year except for cattle which showed an increase of approximately 50%; this was reflected in some degree in the incidence of disease. With regard to sheep and pigs, the diseases affecting individual organs showed a downward trend, and - although more whole carcasses were rejected - the inference was that a good standard of animal was entering the slaughterhouse. In the case of cattle found to be affected with *cysticercus bovis*, a parasitic disease capable of development into a tapeworm in humans, a small number of cases were recorded which showed that there must be no relaxation in the standard inspection techniques used. Tuberculosis - now mainly discovered in swine only - showed a further decrease to negligible proportions.

Arrangements for the disposal of diseased meat continued to be satisfactory. All diseased and rejected meat is now consigned to one byproducts manufacturer.

In calculating the percentage of animals found on inspection to be affected by disease, other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis, figures relating to cattle and sheep affected with liver fluke and to pigs suffering from pneumonia or lung congestion, are disregarded, as these are common conditions not of value for comparative statistical purposes. (See pages 30 and 31)

The licensed Knacker's yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, continued operations throughout the year, being used for the cutting up of carcasses of animals which had died or had been slaughtered on the owner's premises. No horses or other animals were slaughtered here during the year. From November 1st, 1969 new Regulations came into force making it compulsory for all meat from Knacker's yards to be sterilised prior to sale. New plant was installed for this purpose during 1969 and continued in use satisfactorily.

There are no poultry processing premises in the district and poultry inspections were limited to routine ones on retail premises.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955

### Sections 8 & 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The inspection of foodstuffs at premises throughout the Borough continued to be made during the routine inspection of food premises and during sampling visits; also at the special request of food traders. Breakdown in refrigeration plant in retail shops selling frozen foods again accounted for a large proportion of food surrendered.

There were twenty-four complaints to the Department during the year of alleged unsatisfactory food, or food containers, four of which were considered unjustified or inconclusive following investigation. Of the remainder three were on unsatisfactory food containers.

Fourteen others may be divided into two broad categories:- seven involving foreign material and seven food spoilage or deterioration due to bad stock rotation. The foreign material cases ranged over a mixture of foods, viz, confectionery, meat bread and yogurt. Bad stock rotation and handling of food involved four cases with bread, two of cake confectionery and the last one of Russian salad. The three remaining incidents were out of the usual run and involved blackcurrant syrup which had changed colour to green; a chicken which had two sets of internal organs, one set having not been removed during dressing and being cooked with the chicken by the complainant; and tinned baked beans which had been under-processed by the manufacturer.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle (Excluding Bulls and Cows)	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	805	-	37	129	2, 800	4, 556
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	805	-	37	129	2, 800	4, 556
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS &amp; CYSTICERCI</u> Whole carcasses condemned	7	-	1	2	7	19
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	171	-	8	8	69	521
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	22.11%	-	24.3%	7.76%	2.71%	11.82%
	∅ 10.68%	-	∅ 7.2%	-	∅ 1.4%	* 4.7%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	18
Percentage of the number inspected aff- ected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	0.39%
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

∅ Percentage excluding Fascioliasis

\* Percentage excluding Pneumonia and Congestion of Lungs

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was just under 4½ tons.

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period.



Description	Number Slaughtered	Tuberculosis											TOTAL
		Generalised	Localised	Fever/ Oedema	Emaciation	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Fascioliasis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy & Peritonitis	
BOVINES (Excluding Calves) Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcasses Heads and Tongues Lungs Livers and Part Livers Mesentery & Intestines, etc. CALVES Whole Carcasses and Offal Lungs Livers SHEEP Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcasses Lungs Livers PIGS Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcasses Head and Tongues Lungs Livers Mesentery and Intestines, etc. Hearts	842   												

Contamination of food by foreign matter was still the chief source of complaint by the general public, although incidents arising from poor stock rotation ran a close second. It can be fairly said that the quality of labour in both fields of the food industry has a direct bearing on the wholesomeness of the public food supply. In nearly every case, laxity on the part of food handlers was found to be directly or indirectly responsible for the cause.

During the earlier part of the year, a rapid survey was made of all local shops selling highly perishable foods, e.g. sausages, pies, etc., and with a view to emphasising the need for good storage and stock rotation of such foods. This exercise appeared to have a good effect as no cases of mouldy food in this category were recorded. On the other hand there was no real improvement in the cases of mouldy bread sold, most of which was the product of the large producer.

One improvement noted was in the small number of dirty milk bottle complaints. Two were received, only one of which showed some measure of negligence on the part of the dairy.

During 1970 the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works:-

	Tons	cwt.	lbs.
Meat and offal	4	6	5
Meat - canned		2	4
Fish (fresh)		2	52
Sugar and Confectionery		1	30
Frozen Food	1	4	26
Tinned Fruit		15	10
Tinned Vegetables		5	22
Cereals		1	4
Beverages & Bottled Juices			60
Miscellaneous packet food		4	26
Ice Cream		1	02
Pickles			98

This work involved 93 visits by the Inspectors, and the rejection of nearly 7½ tons of food in all.

Food and Drugs Act 1955 - Sections 13 to 21 - Hygiene in connection with the sale of Food, etc. to the Public  
Food and Drugs (Imported Food) Regulations, 1968  
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960  
Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The routine inspection of food premises indicated that in the main a satisfactory standard of hygiene was being maintained. Despite the improved standard in premises following conversions to self-service layouts, lapses in personal hygiene in particular premises and ignorance of staff on food handling techniques, priorities and good stock rotation continue to be the main problem.

Food Vehicles

Periodic spot checks were made continuously throughout the year on food vehicles, particularly those which operated as a single retail business. These were fewer in number than in previous years, and in general, a satisfactory standard was found to be maintained.

Difficulties of inspection and control in this field (usually with the sale of hot dogs) mainly arise with the shrewd operator who allows his vehicle to be used on hire to self employed persons. In such cases no sound pattern of operation emerges to simplify control, changes in vehicle personnel are rapid, usually persons untrained in food handling and with one idea in mind, that of a quick turnover. Unfortunately, they often avoid the dragnet of inspection and control, and remain a menace difficult to eradicate.

REGISTER OF FOOD PREMISES AND PARTICULARS OF  
WASHING FACILITIES

Type of Business	Number of Premises	Wash Hand Basins Provided
Grocers	87	87
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	35	35
Butchers	28	28
Fishmongers & Fishfriers	14	14
Bakehouses	9	9
Confectioners' Cake	13	13
Confectioners, Sweet	77	77
Food Manufactories	2	2
Catering Establishments:-		
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	62	62
Licensed Premises	63	63
School Kitchens	20	20
Clubs	12	12

Primary inspections made at food premises were as follows:-

Catering Establishments ... ..	66
Bakehouses ... ..	25
Grocers ... ..	102
Butchers ... ..	31
Fruiterers and Greengrocers ... ..	32
Fishmongers ... ..	29
Confectioners ... ..	56
Vehicles and stalls ... ..	21
Licensed Premises ... ..	18
Routine Follow-up Inspections	<u>253</u>
Visits for all purposes	<u>633</u>

Premises which are required to be registered under Section 16 are shown below in detail as being on the register at the end of 1970.

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved foods, etc:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc. ... ..	22	30
Fish fryers ... ..	8	17
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	1	6
Delicatessen shops ... ..	2	7
Confectioners. . ... ..	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>36</u>	<u>72</u>

(b) Storage and sale of Ice-Cream

Confectioners, etc... ..	69	70
Grocers, etc. ... ..	46	44
Fruiterers, etc. ... ..	2	6
Newagents, etc. ... ..	5	8
Fishmongers ... ..	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Total:	<u>123</u>	<u>130</u>

In addition to these premises, there are 12 catering establishments where ice cream is sold for consumption off the premises, these being exempt from registration under existing law, and there are two of these premises where soft ice cream is manufactured.

The arrangement was continued with the Borough Engineer whereby any plans of food premises, submitted for Bye-law approval, were examined in the Department and comments made on any aspect of environmental hygiene involved.



Sampling and Analysis

One hundred and thirteen samples purchased by the Sampling Officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst, 29 being formal samples and the remainder taken informally. They covered a wide range of commodities, ten of which were the subject of adverse reports by the Public Analyst. These related to the following:-

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Contravention</u>	<u>Result</u>
21	Chocolate Cream bar	- Labelling	- Label amended
30	Original Bon Bons	- Substandard quality compared with label description	- Label amended
33	Lem pops	- Acid concentration too great	- Reduced by manufacturer, in new recipe
39	Chilli powder	- Labelling	- Label amended
76	Lime Cordial	- Deficiency of lime	- Recipe amended
83	Red Kidney Beans	- Labelling	- Label amended
86	Goat Milk Cheese	- Labelling	- Label amended
101 & 102	Blackcurrant Health Drink	- Sub-standard quality	- Stocks withdrawn
107	Vodka	- Not of quality demanded (added water)	- Detailed investigation with Distillers

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder

These Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:- Fresh apples; currants; sultanas and raisins; eggs (in-shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes, bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; butter; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin, the object being to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing between the goods of Home, Commonwealth or Foreign origin.

Upwards of 36 inspections were made at retail shops during the year without noteworthy incident.

Milk and Dairies General Regulations, 1959.

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

<u>Distributors:</u>	(a) With 2 Dairies in the Borough	...	...	2
	(b) With dairies outside the Borough	...	...	3
	(c) With premises in the Borough	...	...	
	(bottled milk sold in general shops)	...	...	42

The two dairies in the Borough are now only used for the storage and distribution of milk. As has applied for several years now, all milk sold in the Borough must be heat treated with the exception of farm-bottled tuberculin tested milk now sold under the designation "Untreated".

Frequent samples of the various grades were taken on a regular sampling basis, and there were no adverse reports in any category. Full details of this sampling are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FOODS AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: J. Palgrave, Esq., B. Sc., F. R. I. C.)

	Samples Taken			Adversely Reported Upon
	Formal	Informal	Totals	
Beer	3	-	3	-
Cheese	1	5	6	1
Confectionery - Sweet	-	6	6	3
Confectionery - Cakes	-	1	1	-
Drugs	-	13	13	-
Fish and Fish Products	-	5	5	-
Fruit - Dried or Tinned	-	2	2	-
Fruit Drinks	1	14	15	3
Jams and Marmalade	-	4	4	-
Jellies and Trifle	-	1	1	-
Meat and Meat Products	3	6	9	-
Milk	15	-	15	-
Milk Products	-	1	1	-
Nut Foods	-	1	1	-
Sauces	-	5	5	-
Sausages	3	3	6	-
Spices	-	1	1	1
Spirits	2	-	2	1
Vegetables	-	5	5	1
Yoghurt	1	-	1	-
Miscellaneous	-	11	11	-
Totals	29	84	113	10

### Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

The premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber in the Borough are subject to bye-laws made in 1954, under Section 135 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936. These bye-laws require the persons carrying on the business to maintain cleanliness of the premises and equipment. During 1970, no serious infringement of the bye-laws was noted. At the end of the year, the register of premises contained particulars of 16 men's and 30 women's establishments.

### Factories Act, 1961

The table on page 37 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 135 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 259 entries; in 11 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 8 factories were remedied. Thirty-six inspections were made at building sites and works of engineering construction.

### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1970.

### Housing Acts, 1957 to 1969, Rent Act, 1957

### Housing Subsidies Act, 1956. Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956

### Housing (Management of Houses in Multi-Occupation) Regulations, 1962

No further clearance areas were considered during the year, but five houses - the subject of earlier action under the Housing Acts - were demolished during the period and four others were closed; a total of 24 families comprising 53 persons were re-housed in 1970.

The Third Programme of unfit houses begun in 1967 totalled 85 houses, but it was reported then that flexibility would be needed as so many properties were now borderline. During the year clearance by Scheduled areas was again minimal. As reported earlier the total of houses rose during the period to 150, of which 110 had been dealt with by the end of 1969. The four houses closed in 1970 leaves a total of 36 to be considered. Reports were already in hand to deal with a further six houses early in 1971, these being scattered individual properties.

Only one application was received under the Rent Act, 1957, in which case a Certificate of Disrepair was issued.

Inspections at houses in multi-occupation produced further cases where improvements in amenities were required, relating mainly to deficiencies in sanitary accommodation, personal washing facilities, food storage and preparation and lighting and heating. In conjunction with the Borough Engineer control was exercised on proposed conversions and Fire Prevention Officers of Surrey Fire Brigade gave advice where adequate means of escape in case of fire was under scrutiny.

The Housing Act, 1969, which came into force during that year, brought about several important changes, the two main ones being the increased maximum payments for grant assistance towards improvements, and the adjustment of rents payable for certain dwellings in good repair. An owner wishing to take advantage of the new Act to increase the rent for his property, now has to obtain a Qualification Certificate from the Local Authority to enable him to do so. To qualify for a rent increase the dwelling has to be in good repair and provided with all the Standard amenities. During the year, 96 applications for Qualification Certificates were received and following inspections, 20 Certificates were issued and 54 were refused. Certificates of provisional approval amounted to 19. The large proportion of refusals here indicated that a proper inspection of the property had not been undertaken before the application was made, particularly as in a number of cases amenities were lacking, as well as the property not being in good repair.



Factories Act, 1961 - List of Factories

on Register at end of 1969

	<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers .. .. .	1	-
Art Leather Works .. .. .	2	-
Bakers .. .. .	9	-
Basket Works .. .. .	1	-
Book Binder, etc. .. .. .	1	-
Boot Makers and Repairers .. .. .	2	-
Brick Makers, etc. .. .. .	2	-
Brush Makers .. .. .	2	-
Builders and Contractors .. .. .	11	6
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers .. .. .	6	1
Cleaning Powder Manufacturers .. .. .	1	-
Cork Disc and Insulation Manufacturers .. .. .	1	-
Corn and Seed Merchants .. .. .	2	-
Dentists .. .. .	2	-
Dressmakers and Milliners .. .. .	4	3
Dry Cleaners .. .. .	7	-
Engineers Automobile .. .. .	29	-
Engineers Electrical .. .. .	1	2
Engineers Light .. .. .	46	3
Essence Makers .. .. .	2	1
Film Processing .. .. .	1	-
Food Manufacturers .. .. .	1	-
Foundries.. .. .	2	-
Fullers Earth Works .. .. .	1	-
Furniture Making .. .. .	2	-
Gas Holder Station .. .. .	1	-
Glazing and Paint Packing .. .. .	2	1
Heating Engineers .. .. .	3	-
Knacker's Yard .. .. .	-	1
Laundries .. .. .	3	-
Locomotive Repairs .. .. .	1	-
Mattress Manufacturer .. .. .	1	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers .. .. .	2	-
Motor Body Repairs .. .. .	10	-
Motor Cycle and Cycle Repairs .. .. .	1	3
Newspaper Fudging .. .. .	3	-
Photographic Works, etc. .. .. .	2	-
Plastics Processors .. .. .	6	-
Printers .. .. .	11	-
Radio Repairs .. .. .	1	2
Radiator Repairers .. .. .	1	-
Scale Repairers .. .. .	2	-
Sewing Machine Repairs .. .. .	2	-
Sheet Metal Workers .. .. .	2	-
Suitcase Manufacturer .. .. .	1	-
Tailors .. .. .	2	1
Thermometer Manufacturer .. .. .	1	-
Timber Merchants .. .. .	2	-
Tyre Repairs .. .. .	2	-
Watchmakers .. .. .	1	-
Wax Refining .. .. .	1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction	32	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>24</b>

The Public Health Inspectors continued to supervise work in connection with standard grants and 33 applications were dealt with 32 being approved. Schemes were completed at 31 houses and, in consequence, the following improvements were achieved:- 24 baths in separate bathrooms, 29 wash-hand basins, 27 hot water supplies and improved water closet accommodation in 25 cases. Three hundred and thirty visits of inspection were made in connection with this work generally. Only 5 applications for grants related to tenanted houses, a relatively small percentage of the total. Up to the end of the year around 431 applications for standard grants had been received since the inception of the scheme, and 350 of these had been approved.

Liaison continued to be exercised with the Borough Engineer in proposals dealing with discretionary grant application, and 63 such cases were referred to this Department for observations during the year. Consequent on this grant assistance generally, 65 housing units were brought up to a reasonable standard of both repair and amenity in 1970.

Following the advent of the new Housing Act, 1969, surveys of selected areas of dwelling houses began, resulting in two such areas being completed during last year involving some 340 houses. This work continued through 1970 and further groups of 151 houses were surveyed; 82 were found to have the standard amenities and a further 7 were due for improvement by the owners concerned.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Inspections under the Act were maintained during the year and all new registered premises were visited. One hundred and ninety-seven inspections were made, 325 visits were paid and contraventions were noted at 10 premises. At the end of the period all but a few minor deficiencies had been remedied. In no case was it necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

The (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations, 1968, came into force in 1969, their purpose being to impose requirements as to the construction, maintenance and examination of certain lifts in offices, shops and railway premises. On regular inspection only one case arose where a lift was found to require attention, and the work was put in hand and completed with the minimum of delay.

There was an increase in the number of accidents reported, from 11 to 20, all of which were investigated. Informal advice was required in 6 cases and no action was necessary in the remaining 14 cases. Accidents involving falls and collisions and whilst handling goods were in the majority, as has been recorded in the past. Injuries were minor in character and were as follows, in descending order of frequency:- hands and arms (10), body (5), head (3), feet and legs (2).

During the year publicity on new methods of control of bleeding in the case of serious accidents was given to all employers of larger numbers of staff, and also at premises where dangerous machines are in use.

There was a slight increase in the premises on the register at the end of the year:- from 641 to 648. The number of premises and persons employed in the various categories were as follows:- 208 Offices (3123 persons), 375 Retail Shops (1985 persons), 14 Wholesale Premises (254 persons), 50 Catering Establishments (370 persons), 1 Fuel Storage Depot (27 persons).

A tabular statement of the various contraventions remedied in offices and shops is included on page 41.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

This Order deals with the inspection and licensing of boiling-plants used by collectors of waste food for animal feeding. Such waste food may spread foot-and-mouth and other animal disease if not properly boiled for at least one hour. There is only one such food plant licensed in the Borough at present, and inspections indicated that the requirements of the Order were being observed.

Fairground Sanitation

Two fairs were staged for short periods in the Borough during the year, and these were visited and inspected for general sanitary arrangements. Temporary sanitary accommodation and an emptying and cleansing service continued to be provided by the Council at appropriate charges.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953  
Oil Heater Regulations, 1962 and 1966.

The Heating Appliances Regulations deal with safety standards in the construction of electric, gas and oil space heaters, and for the fixing of satisfactory fire guards. The standards now adopted by manufacturers to conform with the appropriate British Standard Specification ensure compliance with the requirements. Contraventions on retail sale are now most rare and none arose during the year.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Nuisances arising from noise and vibration are dealt with by this Act, which does not lay down rigid standards on permissible noise levels; indeed it would appear most difficult to do so, variable as the problem will be in each case on location and distance, intensity and duration, and the time of day or night involved.

Sixteen complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year and in nine cases subsequent investigations revealed that there was justification for complaint. These cases were as follows:-

<u>Problem</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
Road breaking drills	- 2 incidents	- Contractors fitted muffles following representations
Factory operations	- 2 incidents	- Remedied informally in co-operation with management
Chain saw (Wood cutting)	- 1 incident	- Investigations proceeding at end of year
Aircraft	- 1 incident	- Attention of Air Traffic Control drawn to case
Building operation	- 1 incident	- Remedied informally in co-operation with management
Animals (dogs)	- 2 incidents	- Remedied informally

On the control of noise from road breaking tools and building site operations generally a clause on this is now entered in all relevant Council contracts dealt with by the Borough Engineer. Co-operation from contractors has been much better as a result.



## Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	...	...	...	...	...	108
House Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	98
Cesspools overflowing	...	...	...	...	...	1
Non-removal of house refuse	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rats or Mice	...	...	...	...	...	586
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	64
Other insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	49
Wasps nests	...	...	...	...	...	428
Unsound food (sold)	...	...	...	...	...	24
Keeping of Animals, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	33
Noise Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	73

## Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

### Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1970	...	...	...	...	73
Issued during year	...	...	...	...	90
Complied with during year	...	...	...	...	98
Statutory action necessary	...	...	...	...	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1970	...	...	...	...	65

### Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1970	...	...	...	...	-
Issued during year	...	...	...	...	1
Complied with during year	...	...	...	...	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1970	...	...	...	...	1

## Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

### Dwelling-Houses

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Horizontal damp proof course inserted	...	...	...	...	6
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes of dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	6
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only)	...	...	...	...	54
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	...	...	...	...	37
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	24
New W. c's installed	...	...	...	...	27
W. C. apparatus renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Sewage treatment plants repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Floors, windows and doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	11
Sinks installed or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Wash-hand basins renewed or installed	...	...	...	...	29
Baths installed	...	...	...	...	24
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water supply installed	...	...	...	...	27
Yard Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	1
Walls repaired (pointing etc.)	...	...	...	...	3
External decoration	...	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	5

Food Premises

Food storage and display improved	...	...	5
Ventilation improved	...	...	4
Sanitary accommodation improved	...	...	4
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	...	...	18
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	...	...	4
Floors repaired or renewed...	...	...	2
Preparation tables repaired or renewed	...	...	1
Wash-hand basins installed	...	...	2
Hot water supplies provided	...	...	2
First Aid Equipment provided	...	...	2
Sinks renewed or installed	...	...	1
Dustbins renewed/bin area improved	...	...	2
Drains cleared	...	...	6
Drainage improved	...	...	1
Other nuisances abated	...	...	3

Factories

Want of cleanliness	...	...	3
Ventilation systems improved	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	3

Other business premises - Offices, shops, etc.

Rooms cleaned and redecorated	...	...	3
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	4
Heating and thermometers provided	...	...	4
Sanitary conveniences improved	...	...	4
Washing facilities provided..	...	...	1
Hot Water provided	...	...	1
Machinery guarded	...	...	4
Abstracts displayed	...	...	4

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 - Rodent Control

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below, the table having been modified to conform with the simplified return now made annually to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		NON AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1.	Number of properties in district	22, 521	63
2. (a)	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	586	9
(b)	Number infested by (i) Rats	333	8
	(ii) Mice	166	1
3. (a)	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	112	52
(b)	Number infested by (i) Rats	50	18
	(ii) Mice	10	5

This work carried out by the District Pests Officers involved the following visits of inspection:-

Local Authority premises	1, 256
Dwelling Houses	6, 012
Business Premises	823
Agricultural Premises	678
	8, 769

Visits in relation to other pests	1, 824
	10, 593

There was a small decrease in the number of complaints of rat infestation during the year, and this was reflected in the number of infestations found and treated. Complaints of mice infestation increased however and some difficulties were experienced in clearing premises where a firm hold had been established. In the case of agricultural premises both types of vermin showed a marginal decrease. All infestations of both rats and mice were dealt with by Pests Officers of the Department.

Inspection and control work on agricultural land was continued throughout the year; also period arrangements on a quarterly charge basis for regular disinfection by the Pests Officers were continued with satisfactory results. There were seven of these at the end of the period. Similar arrangements were also continued in respect of a large controlled tip in Merstham, where infestation was kept to a minimum. Control was also exercised on two other refuse tips where tipping is carried out intermittently. One of these, established more recently and located just outside the Borough, is kept under surveillance by the Department under an arrangement with Godstone R.D.C. No infestations of note have been recorded. Charges at business premises continued unaltered, the occupier being required to meet the cost of the treatment on a basis of 10/- an hour, with a minimum charge of 15/-.

It has been normal practice in the past for the staff to conduct twice yearly systematic inspection and treatment as necessary of the Borough sewerage system. No rat infestation had been discovered for some six years until last year, when minor "takes" were recorded on test baiting in October. This was quickly dealt with by special treatments immediately mounted. It is pleasing to report once again that no infestations were found in the 1970 testing of the sewers.

The control work already detailed was exclusive of that carried out under contract arrangements with:-

- (a) The Surrey County Council at St. Anne's, Redhill, and its ancillary homes, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc;
- (b) The Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill General Hospital.

Apart from this rodent control work the officers were engaged from time to time at Corporation property in dealing with other pests, such as rabbits, foxes, badgers and moles. Also, 428 wasps' nests were destroyed during the summer period, this seasonal problem being much more severe in 1970.

#### Education and Instruction

As in the past, education visits were arranged to the Refuse Disposal Works, Sewage Works, Disinfecting Station and Caravan Sites. In the main, these visits were for organised parties of Student Nurses, Health Visitors and Public Health Inspectors in training.





